

# Washington Way Park

## History and Character

Washington Way is located on 120 North Pitt Street, one block away from King Street. Washington Way straddles an existing alleyway.

George Washington purchased the lot at 508 Cameron Street in 1764 and from 1769 to 1771, he had a plain dwelling, a stable, and other necessary buildings constructed. Prior to the Revolutionary War, he used it often when he was in Alexandria. During the war and his Presidency, the place was often rented or lent to friends and members of the family. The townhouse was the only house in Alexandria that Washington owned. The Washington Way alley is in the back of the house where several service buildings once stood including a stable, slave quarter, and an outhouse. Washington Way is where George Washington would approach the property by horse when visiting the property.

The 0.7 acre park features flower beds, small trees, and three benches. The park sits between a retail building and parking garage and is easily accessible to workers and tourists in the area.

## Existing Conditions Map



# Washington Way Park



## Community Feedback

In Fall 2018, staff collected community feedback to understand how the park is used and how it could be improved in the future. The following information summarizes what we heard through an online survey and community workshop. Over 400 people responded to the survey in total, 2 of which were specific to Washington Way Park. Staff used the collected information to develop the draft park plans.

## In 10 years, I would like this Park to...

(Top 3 rankings shown, based on a weighted score)

\*survey responses were limited for this park



*The image above is an example string lights. String lights provide light, give the park more of an identity.*

# Washington Way Park

Which of the following existing proposed park elements do you love, like, or not like?

Recommendation Park welcome sign			Recommendation Partnerships		
Number of responses			Number of responses		
9			9		
Value	Count	Percent	Value	Count	Percent
I love it!	5	56	I love it!	3	33
I like it	4	44	I like it	5	56
I don't like it	0	0	I don't like it	1	11

Recommendation Ground treatments			Recommendation Trees		
Number of responses			Number of responses		
8			9		
Value	Count	Percent	Value	Count	Percent
I love it!	7	88	I love it!	6	67
I like it	1	12	I like it	0	0
I don't like it	0	0	I don't like it	3	33

Recommendation Alley elevation			Recommendation Historical marker		
Number of responses			Number of responses		
7			9		
Value	Count	Percent	Value	Count	Percent
I love it!	6	86	I love it!	7	78
I like it	1	14	I like it	1	11
I don't like it	0	0	I don't like it	1	11

Recommendation Seating			Recommendation String lights		
Number of responses			Number of responses		
7			8		
Value	Count	Percent	Value	Count	Percent
I love it!	5	72	I love it!	4	50
I like it	1	14	I like it	4	50
I don't like it	1	14	I don't like it	0	0

In the summer of 2019 RPCA staff collected community feedback on the draft recommendations for improving this pocket park. The following information summarizes what was heard through online surveys and community feedback (see appendix for full results). Over 700 responses were collected in total, nine of which were specific to Washington Way Park.

Based on information from the summer input phase, staff updated the plan to best represent current and future community needs. No major changes were made to the original draft plan.

## Improvement Recommendations

- Add a park welcome sign**  
Add a park welcome sign to meet the City's wayfinding standards and invite park users into the park.
- Seek partner agreements with neighbors on park plantings**  
The planting bed in the park has been informally maintained by neighbors for a number of years. Actively seek a partner and formalize an agreement to maintain the plantings.
- Add a contrasting treatment to the alley**  
Adding a contrasting treatment, such as thermoplastic, pavers, or cobblestones, to the alley will help differentiate this portion of the alley so that it is more inviting and is connected to the park.
- Replace evergreen**  
The large evergreen bush is unhealthy and restricts views into the park, especially from the southeast side of the park. Replace this bush with native plants that are appropriate for the site.
- Raise the alley elevation**  
There are no ramps on the curbs along the alley through the park, which renders a portion of the park inaccessible and artificially separates the two sides of the park. Raising the elevation of the alley surface and adding a strip of truncated domes along the edge of the alley will improve accessibility and help join the two sides of the park together.
- Add a historical marker**  
Washington Way has a direct connection to George Washington, whose townhouse was located just around the corner on Cameron Street. Add a historical marker, sign, or stanchion to commemorate the historical significance of this location.
- Add social seating areas**  
Install moveable round tables with seating, similar to those in Waterfront Park, to provide places to relax, eat a meal, and socialize.
- Add string lights**  
Installing string lights would enhance the appearance of the park and draw people into the park without creating bright light that would disturb neighbors.

— Park Boundary

0 5 10 20 Feet

WASHINGTON WAY  
N PITT ST

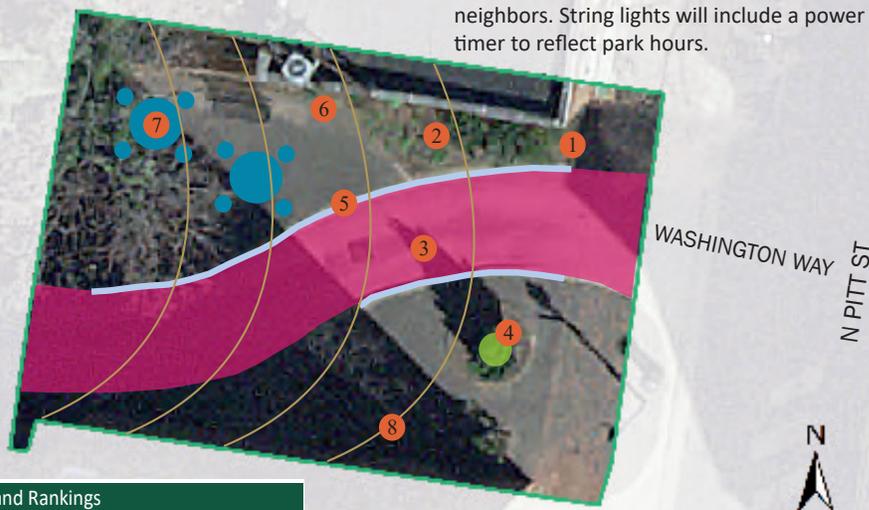
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# Washington Way Park

## Improvement Recommendations

- 1 Add a park welcome sign**  
Add a park welcome sign to meet the City standard and invite park users into the park.
- 2 Improve planting beds**  
Replace top soil in planting beds and develop a planting plan, including a maintenance plan. For years, the planting bed in the park was maintained by neighbors. Actively seek a partner and formalize an agreement to maintain the plantings.
- 3 Add a contrasting treatment to the alley**  
Adding a contrasting treatment, such as thermoplastic, pavers, or cobblestones, to the alley will help differentiate this portion of the alley so that it is more inviting and is connected to the park.
- 4 Replace evergreen**  
The large evergreen tree is unhealthy and restricts views into the park, especially from the southeast side of the park. Replace the evergreen tree with a native canopy tree and plant appropriate plantings around the tree.
- 5 Raise the alley elevation**  
There are no ramps on the curbs along the alley through the park, which renders a portion of the park inaccessible and artificially separates the two sides of the park. Raise the elevation of the alley surface and adding a strip of truncated domes along the edge of the alley to improve accessibility and help join the two sides of the park together.
- 6 Add a historical marker**  
Washington Way has a direct connection to George Washington, whose townhouse was located just around the corner on Cameron Street. There is also significant African American history in this area. Add a historical marker, sign, or stanchion to commemorate the historical significance of this location.
- 7 Add social seating areas**  
Install moveable round tables with seating, similar to those in Waterfront Park, to provide places to relax, eat a meal, and socialize.
- 8 Add string lights**  
Install string lights to enhance the appearance of the park and draw people into the space without creating bright light that disturbs neighbors. String lights will include a power timer to reflect park hours.



Recommendations and Rankings

#	Recommendation	Dept. Lead	Priority	Cost
1	Park signage	RPCA	Medium	\$1,800 - \$2,419
2	Planting beds	RPCA	Medium	\$3,200 - \$4,301
3	Contrasting treatment	RPCA	Low	\$13,200 - \$17,740
4	Evergreen replacement	RPCA	High	\$780 - \$1,048
5	Alley elevation	RPCA	Low	\$16,000 - \$21,503
6	Historical marker	RPCA	Medium	\$3,400 - \$4,569
7	Social seating	RPCA	High	\$9,600 - \$12,902
8	String lights	RPCA	Low	\$20,000 - \$26,878